

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

These proposed regulations amend specific provisions and adopt new language in the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) that regulate Special Needs of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Homeless Assistance Program (HAP).

Current law allows a family to be eligible for temporary and permanent homeless assistance (HA) under an exception to the once-in-a-lifetime HA rule when homelessness is a direct result of domestic violence by a spouse, partner, or roommate. Prior to January 1, 2008, under these circumstances, domestic violence was required to be verified by a third-party governmental or private health and human services agency.

Assembly Bill (AB) 335 (Chapter 726, Statutes of 2007) permits recipients to verify Domestic Violence (DV) as an exception to the once-in-a-lifetime HA rules with a sworn statement made by the victim, unless the agency documents in writing an independent, reasonable basis to find the recipient not credible. The DV may be verified by a sworn statement for up to two periods of temporary HA payments and two payments of permanent HA. Further, the County Welfare Department (CWD) will be required to immediately inform HAP recipients, who verify DV with a sworn statement, of the availability of DV counseling and services, and refer them to services upon request.

AB 335 also provides that if the CWD requires a recipient, who verifies DV by a sworn statement, to participate in a homeless avoidance case plan, the plan shall include the provision of DV services, if appropriate. If a recipient, who is seeking an exemption to the once-in-a-lifetime provision of HA based on DV, has previously received homeless avoidance services based on DV, the county shall review whether DV counseling and services were offered to the recipient and consider what additional services would assist the recipient in leaving the DV situation. Additionally, the proposed regulations will make other technical, conforming changes, such as renumbering of sections and amending cross references as necessary.

These regulations were considered at the public hearing held on June 16, 2010 in Sacramento, California. No oral or written testimony was received.